AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A controlled-release dosage form suitable for oral administration comprising a **solid** matrix **comprising:** ~~**formed of the following ingredients (a) and (b):**~~

~~**(a)**~~ gellan gum**;**~~**, and**~~

~~**(b)**~~ one or more hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt and xanthan gum; **and**

~~**and further comprising**~~

at least one drug ~~**incorporated within said matrix**~~**, wherein gellan gum constitutes from about 20 to about 50 wt.% of the matrix**.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The dosage form according to claim 1 comprising a combination of guar gum and carboxymethyl cellulose ~~**as component (b)**~~.

4. (Currently amended) The dosage form according to claim 1 comprising hydroxypropyl methylcellulose ~~**as component (b)**~~.

5. (Currently amended) The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein at least one drug is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory drugs, antiepileptics, hypnotic sedatives, antipyretic analgesics, stimulants, **antihypnotics** ~~**antillypnotics**~~, drugs for vertigo, drugs for the central nervous

system, skeletal muscle relaxants, drugs for the autonomic nervous system, autonomic ganglionic blockers, drugs for the peripheral nervous system, opthalmic drugs, drugs for sense-organs, cardiacs, antiarrhythmics, diuretics, antihypertensives, vasoreinforcements, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, antiarteriosclerotics, circulatory drugs, antitussive expectorants, drugs for respiratory organs, peptic ulcer drugs, antacids, cathartics, cholagogues, digestive drugs, hormonal agents, urinary tract disinfectants, uterotonics, urogenital drugs, drugs for anus diseases, vitamins, nutritive roborants, drugs for hepatic diseases, antidotes, habitual intoxication drugs, antipodagrics, enzyme preparations, antidiabetics, cell activation drugs, antitumor agents, antibiotics, chemotherapeutic agents, and arthritis therapeutics.

6. (Previously presented) The dosage form according to claim 5, wherein the drug has preferred absorption in the stomach.

7. (Previously presented) The dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of clarithromycin, metformin, azidotimidine, orlistat, ciprofloxacin, and levodopa.

8. (Previously presented) The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the dosage form further comprises one or more non-active pharmaceutically acceptable additives.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The dosage form according to claim 8, which is in the form of a tablet, caplets, vegecap, or capsule.

11. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for **[[the]]** preparation of **a** controlled-release dosage ~~**forms**~~ **form comprising a solid matrix**, comprising the following steps:

(a) **homogenizing** ~~**Homogenizing the**~~ matrix components **comprising gellan gum; one or more hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt and xanthan gum; and** ~~**with the active**~~ **at least one** drug via mechanical means, resulting in a premix**;**

(b) **adding** ~~**Adding**~~ to the premix a combination of water and one or more hydrophilic solvents, obtaining a pharmaceutically acceptable wet granule**;**

(c) **drying** ~~**Drying**~~ the wet granulate via conventional drying methods, obtaining a dried granulate**;**

(d) **screening** ~~**Screening**~~ the dried granulate through a sieving system to obtain a screened granulate of a size suitable for post-processing**; and**

(e) **adding** ~~**Adding**~~ a lubricant to the screened granulate, **wherein gellan gum constitutes from about 20 to about 50 wt.% of the matrix.**

12. (Previously presented) The dosage form according to claim 8, wherein said additives are selected from the group consisting of metal ions, colorants, taste maskers, dietary components, excipients, binding agents, coatings, preservatives and mixtures thereof.

13. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and one or more other hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of guar gum, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt, and xanthan gum.

14. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and guar gum.

15. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and carboxymethylcellulose sodium salt.

16. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and xanthan gum.

17. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, guar gum, and carboxymethylcellulose sodium salt.

18. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein upon wetting the dosage form, a gel is produced for more than 5 hours in gastric fluid simulation.

19. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein upon wetting the dosage form, a gel is produced for more than 24 hours in gastric fluid simulation.

20. (New) The dosage form according to claim 1 wherein upon wetting the dosage form, a gel is produced for more than 1 week in gastric fluid simulation.